space-matter-colour

Brian Blanchflower: paintings from four decades

space-matter-colour concentrates on Brian Blanchflower’s intense, monochromatic paintings of the last decade, but also includes a broad selection, very largely from the artist’s collection, of works going back as far as 1970. The recent works are set in context, and his conjoining of colour, space and matter in deep, compelling paintings can be seen throughout. Brian Blanchflower lives near Perth and is one of Australia’s most important living artists.

In this series of talks, speakers from a range of disciplines—including the visual arts, music, literature and philosophy—will share perspectives on ideas they see raised in Brian’s works.

Sunday 16 May, 2.00pm - The Artists - Michele Theunissen & Michael Iwanoff

To celebrate the opening of the exhibition, Michele Theunissen and Michael Iwanoff will present a special guided tour of the show. Michele and Michael are both practicing artists who currently teach painting in the Art Department at Curtin University of Technology. In this talk they will draw upon their experiences of painting, and their relationship with the artist Brian Blanchflower, to present a unique and informative discussion of the works in this show. Please join them for the tour and stay on for light refreshments afterwards.

Friday 21 May, 1.00pm - The Curator - John Barrett-Lennard

Brian Blanchflower’s paintings point to spaces outside the normal limits of vision—in their allusions to cosmology and unseen territories; their bypassing of much contemporary art discourse; and in concentrating on intense visual engagement between the viewer and the work. They are multi-layered, dense, deep spaces in which the eye can get caught, and the viewer can become immersed. John Barrett-Lennard, the Director of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery and Curator of this exhibition, has known Brian Blanchflower and been looking at his work for over thirty years. This talk will trace a journey through four decades of Brian Blanchflower’s painting, and the connections that exist across a large and diverse practice, as well as follow a curator’s journey in looking outward and inward from the artist’s path.

Friday 28 May, 1.00pm - The Collector - Chris Hill

Chris Hill developed an interest in contemporary art in the seventies, and has been collecting ever since. He became aware of Brian’s work in the early eighties, through exhibitions such as Critics’ Choice and Among the Souvenirs at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, and solo shows at Galerie Dusseldorf. Chris purchased his first painting from Brian, Quartet 3 (Solid Body, Light Body), after seeing the Ensembles show at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery in 1994. As Chair of Murdoch University’s Art Board in 2006, he was very involved with the Maxiverse exhibition, which featured works by Brian and his longtime friend Bob Brighton. Chris thus has a long history with the artist, spanning nearly thirty years, and in this talk he will reflect upon these experiences, and Brian’s ongoing importance in the Australian art world.
Friday 11 June, 1.00pm - The Musician - Robert Faulkner

Robert Faulkner is a musician, music educator and researcher with a passion for the arts and everyday life. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London and Sheffield University, Robert worked in the East End of London and then in Iceland for over twenty years, where he worked at all levels of education from kindergarten to tertiary. He is presently Assistant Research Professor in the School of Music and Coordinator for the Masters of Teaching in Early Childhood at the Graduate School of Education. In all his work Robert has fostered children's creativity, their ability to compose and improvise music, and the synergies between artistic domains. His talk explores art, music and aesthetics from a personal perspective, with a special emphasis on Brian’s work and on Robert’s own.

Friday 18 June, 1.00pm - The Author - Terri-Ann White

Terri-ann White has had her fiction and other writing published since the late 1980s, has taught writing in the community and universities, and previously been an independent bookseller. She is Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies, a cross-disciplinary centre she established at the University of Western Australia in 1999, as well as UWA Publishing. Her books include a collection of short stories, one novel, three anthologies, and she has been published widely in journals and anthologies. She has an abiding interest in expression and takes great pleasure in collaborative work with other artists, especially in the forms of the visual arts and performance. In this talk, she will offer creative and speculative responses to Brian’s work.

Friday 25 June, 1.00pm - The Philosopher - Michael Levine

Michael Levine is Winthrop Professor of Philosophy at the University of Western Australia. Recent publications include Integrity and the Fragile Self (co-authored), and Politics Most Unusual. Michael’s talk will address how East Asian and Indian aesthetics—particularly their accounts of the creative or artistic process in relation to a work of art—might give us additional insight and appreciation of Blanchflower’s work. Several non-western notions of artistic creativity will be discussed, including Taoism, which sees creativity as disciplined or structured spontaneity; Confucianism, which sees it as structured in terms of inherent principles; and Indian aesthetics, where the artistic process is seen as involving “emotion and insight informed by knowledge (jñāna) of self and reality. Art is a kind of mimesis, an ‘imitation’ not of actual things, events or happenings but of the potentiality… of experience in its broadest and deepest terms.” (Eliot Deutsch)

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